AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1.   (*Currently Amended*) A method of synthesizing speech using discourse function level prosodic features comprising the steps of:

determining a theory of discourse analysis from a plurality of theories of discourse analysis based on the speech to be synthesized;

determining output information;

determining discourse functions in the output information the discourse functions being determined based on a mapping between basic discourse constituents of the determined theory of discourse analysis and a plurality of discourse functions;

determining a model of discourse function level prosodic features; and

determining adjusted synthesized speech output based on the discourse functions and the model of discourse function level prosodic features.

2.   (*Currently Amended*) The method of claim 1, wherein the discourse functions are determined based on [[a]] the determined theory of discourse analysis.

3.   (*Original*) The method of claim 2, in which the theory of discourse analysis is at least one of: the Linguistic Discourse Model, the Unified Linguistic Discourse Model, Rhetorical Structures Theory, Discourse Structure Theory and Structured Discourse Representation Theory.

4.   (*Original*) The method of claim 1, wherein the output information is at least one of text information and application output information.

5.   (*Original*) The method of claim 1, wherein determining the adjusted synthesized speech output further comprises the steps of:

     determining a synthesized speech output based on the output information;

     determining discourse function level prosodic feature adjustments; and

     determining adjusted synthesized speech output based on the synthesized speech output and the discourse level prosodic feature adjustments.

6.   (*Currently Amended*) The <u>method</u> ~~system~~ of claim 1, wherein the model of discourse function level prosodic features is a predictive model of discourse functions.

7.   (*Original*) The method of claim 6, in which the predictive models are determined based on at least one of: machine learning and rules.

8.   (*Original*) The method of claim 1, in which the prosodic features occur in at least one of a location: preceding, within and following the associated discourse function.

9.   (*Original*) The method of claim 1, in which the prosodic features are encoded within a prosodic feature vector.

10.   (*Original*) The method of claim 9, in which the prosodic feature vector is a multimodal

feature vector.

11.   (*Original*) The method of claim 1, in which the discourse function is an intra-sentential

discourse function.

12.   (*Original*) The method of claim 1, in which the discourse function is an inter-sentential

discourse function.

13.   (*Currently Amended*) A method of synthesizing speech using discourse function level

prosodic features comprising the steps of:

        determining output information;

        determining discourse functions in the output information based on a contextually aware

theory of discourse analysis using a mapping between basic discourse constituents of the

contextually aware theory of discourse analysis and a plurality of discourse functions;

        determining a model of discourse function level prosodic features; and

        determining adjusted synthesized speech output based on the discourse functions and the

model of discourse function level prosodic features.

14.   (*Original*) The method of claim 13, in which the context is at least one of: semantic,

pragmatic, and syntactic context.

15.   (*Currently Amended*) A system for synthesizing speech using discourse function level

prosodic features comprising:

an input/output circuit for retrieving output information;

a processor that <u>determines a theory of discourse analysis from a plurality of theories of</u> <u>discourse analysis based on the speech to be synthesized;</u> determines discourse functions in the output information <u>based on a mapping between basic discourse constituents of the determined</u> <u>theory of discourse analysis and a plurality of discourse functions</u>; determines a model of discourse function level prosodic features; and which determines adjusted synthesized speech output based on the discourse functions and the model of discourse function level prosodic features.

16.   (*Currently Amended*) The system of claim 15, wherein the discourse functions are determined based on [[a]] <u>the</u> theory of discourse analysis.

17.   (*Original*) The system of claim 16, in which the theory of discourse analysis is at least one of: the Linguistic Discourse Model, the Unified Linguistic Discourse Model, Rhetorical Structures Theory, Discourse Structure Theory and Structured Discourse Representation Theory.

18.   (*Original*) The system of claim 15, wherein the output information is at least one of text information and application output information.

19.   (*Original*) The system of claim 15, wherein the processor determines a synthesized speech output based on the output information; determines discourse function level prosodic feature adjustments; and determines adjusted synthesized speech output based on the synthesized speech output and the discourse level prosodic feature adjustments.

20. (*Original*) The system of claim 15, wherein the model of discourse function level prosodic features is a predictive model of discourse functions.

21. (*Original*) The system of claim 20, in which the predictive models are determined based on at least one of: machine learning and rules.

22. (*Original*) The system of claim 15, in which the prosodic features occur in at least one of a location: preceding, within and following the associated discourse function.

23. (*Original*) The system of claim 15, in which the prosodic features are encoded within a prosodic feature vector.

24. (*Original*) The system of claim 23, in which the prosodic feature vector is a multimodal feature vector.

25. (*Original*) The system of claim 15, in which the discourse function is an intra-sentential discourse function.

26. (*Original*) The system of claim 15, in which the discourse function is an inter-sentential discourse function.

27.   (*Currently Amended*) A system for synthesizing speech using discourse function level

prosodic features comprising:

   an input/output circuit for retrieving output information;

   a processor that determines discourse functions in the output information based on a

context aware theory of discourse analysis using a mapping between basic discourse constituents

of the contextually aware theory of discourse analysis and a plurality of discourse functions;

determines a model of discourse function level prosodic features; and which determines adjusted

synthesized speech output based on the discourse functions and the model of discourse function

level prosodic features.

28.   (*Original*) The system of claim 27, in which the context is at least one of: semantic,

pragmatic, and syntactic context.

29.   (*Currently Amended*) A carrier wave encoded to transmit a control program, useable to

program a computer to synthesize speech using discourse level prosodic features, to a device for

executing the program, the control program comprising:

   instructions for determining a theory of discourse analysis from a plurality of theories of

discourse analysis based on the speech to be synthesized;

   instructions for determining output information;

   instructions for determining discourse functions in the output information, the discourse

functions being determined based on a mapping between basic discourse constituents of the

determined theory of discourse analysis and a plurality of discourse functions;

   instructions for determining a model of discourse function level prosodic features; and

instructions for determining adjusted synthesized speech output based on the discourse

functions and the model of discourse function level prosodic features.

30. (*Currently Amended*) Computer readable storage medium comprising: computer readable

program code embodied on the computer readable storage medium, the computer readable

program code usable to program a computer to synthesize speech using discourse level prosodic

features comprising the steps of:

  determining a theory of discourse analysis from a plurality of theories of discourse

analysis based on the speech to be synthesized;

  determining output information;

  determining discourse functions in the output information, the discourse functions being

determined based on a mapping between basic discourse constituents of the determined theory of

discourse analysis and a plurality of discourse functions;

  determining a model of discourse function level prosodic features; and

  determining adjusted synthesized speech output based on the discourse functions and the

model of discourse function level prosodic features.